A CHARACTER OF ENGLAND.

As it was lately presented in a Letter, to a Noble Man of FRANCE.

LONDON,
Printed for *Jo. Crooke*, and are to be sold at the Ship in St. *Paul's*-yard, 1659.

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TO THE READER.

Hen I first chanced upon this severe piece and had read it in the Language it was sent me, I was so much concern'd with the honour of our Country, that it was my resolution to suppress the publication of our

 shame,

shame, as conceiving it an act of great inhumanity; But upon second and more impartial thoughts, I have been tempted to make it speak English, and give it liberty, not to reproach, but to instruct our Nation; remembring what the Wiseman hath said, *Open rebuke is better than secret Love*, Prov. 27. 5. The truth is, I cannot

ſay but the particulars, are moſt of them, very home; and which we may no way evade, without acknowledging, at leaſt, that the Gentleman (who ever he were) made notable uſe of his time, but beſt of all, by ſetting upon effectuall redreſſe of what is amiſs. And though I doubt not, but one might eaſily retort in as many inſtan-

ces upon defects as great (if not greater) of that Nation; (for he that finds fault, had need be perfect) yet were it then fittest to do it, and to revenge this charitable office, when we shall have first reformed our selves.

Farewell.

A CHARACTER OF ENGLAND,

&c.

My Lord,

YOu command me to give you a minute account of what I observed, and how I passed that little time which I lately spent in *England*; a Country, whose Cha-

Character you so greatly desire to be informed of, in a conjuncture (as you rightly deduce) of so strange vicissitude, and wonderful alterations; And to whom, my *Lord*, should I more readily submit? First, encouraged to make this excursion by your *L*. as who had formerly beheld, and so much admir'd the splendor and magnificence of this *Court*, and *Kingdom* in its greatest *Prime* and lustre. But, my *Lord*, I cannot imagine, that you should esteeme me either of years, or capacity to inform *You*, whose judgement is so mature, and correspondence so universall, as that

that there is nothing which can escape your cognizance, not onely in that *Island*, but in all the world besides. But since you oblige me not to dip into the transactions of State, the effects of Providence, Time, Notices of a superiour Orbe, and in which you cannot be instructed by so weak an instrument as your Servant; and demand onely the little *Remarkes* of my hasty, and desultory *Peregrination*; though I cannot pretend to improve your *Lordships* knowledg, yet I may hope to give it diversion, and an *Essay* of my Obedience.

It must be avowed that

England is a sweet, and fertill Country.

Terra potens armis, atque ubere gleba:

That the Fields, the Hills, and the Vallies are perpetually clad with a glorious, and agreeable verdure; that her provisions are plentifull; her staples important; and her interest very considerable; not omitting the most beautifull *Ladies*, I had almost said, of the world, but for a just respect due to the illustrious *Circles* of our *Court*, where the beauties of conversation so far transcend the tinctures of Lillies and Roses. But these, my *Lord*, are not the

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Memoires which you demand; I will therefore haſten to my *Poſt*.

After a ſhort paſſage from *Calais*, we came on ſhore at *Dover*, where the people of the Town entertain'd us with ſuch ſuſpicious, and forbidding countenances, whiſpering, and ſtiff poſtures, that I ſhould never have believed ſo great a difference in the addreſſes of two Nations, could have been produced by ſo ſhort a traject, and in a Port continually accuſtom'd to the faces of ſtrangers, had not the contrary humors of our contiguous neighbours, the *Spaniards*, made it poſſi-

ble,

we, in so many pleasant instances. But I was amazed, when we had taken *Post*, and scarce out of the *Village*, at the acclamations of the *Boys*, running after, and affrighting our horses, hooting, and crying out, *French Dogs*, *French Dogs*, *a Mounser*, *Mounser*! by a particular expression of welcome, which other people would interpret derision. But in this Triumph (though somewhat late ere we set out of *Dover*) we attained as far as *Rochester* the first night, where, how new a thing it appeared to me, to see my confident *Host* set him down cheek by joul by me, belching

and

and puffing *Tabacco* in my face, you may eaſily imagine, till I afterwards found it to be the uſuall ſtile of this Country; and that the *Gentlemen*, who lodge at their *Inns*, entertain themſelves in their company, and are much pleas'd with their impertinencies: Ariv'd at the *Metropolis* of civility, *London*, we put our ſelves in *Coach* with ſome perſons of quality, who came to conduct us to our Lodging; but neither was this paſſage without honour done to us, the kennel dirt, ſquibs, rockets and rams-hornes being favours which were frequently caſt at us by the children;

and

and apprentises without reproofe; civilities, that in *Paris*, a *Gentleman* as seldome meets withall, as with the contests of *Carmen*, who in this Town domineer in the streets, o're-throw the *Hell-Carts* (for so they name the *Coaches*) cursing, and reviling at the *Nobles*: You would imagine your self amongst a *Legion* of *Devils*, and in the suburbs of *Hell*. I have greatly wondred at the remisness of the *Magistrate*, and the temper of the *Gentlemen*; and that the *Citizens*, who subsist onely upon them, should permit so great a disorder, rather joyning in the af-

brits

affronts, then at all chastizing the inhumanity. But these are the naturall effects of pantry, popular Libertinism, and Insulary manners.

I find, as you told me, my *Lord*, *London* to be a Town so nobly Situated, and upon such a River, as *Europe* certainly shews not a more usefull and agreeable; but withall this, a *City* consisting of a wooden, northern, and inartificiall congestion of Houses; some of the principall streets so narrow, as there is nothing more deformed, and unlike, than the prospect of it at a distance, and its *asymmetrie* within the Walls. Their

Foun-

Fountains, which are the pride and grace of our streets, and plentifully supplyed in this *City*, are here immur'd, to secure the waters from, I know not what, impurities: but, certainly, it do's greatly detract from the beauty of the *Cisterns*, & intercepts the view.

Amongst the peices of *modern Architecture*, I have never observ'd above two, which were remarkable in this vast *City*: The *Portico* of the Church of St. *Paul*, and the Banquetting-house at *Whitehall*, of which I remember to have heard your *Lordship* speak: but you would be amaz'd at the *genius* of this

age,

age, that should suffer this goodly and venerable fabrick to be built about, and converted into raskally *Ware-houses*, and so sordidly obscur'd and defac'd, that an argument of greatest avarice, malice, meanness and deformity of mind cannot possibly be expressed: Nothing here of Ornaments, nothing of magnificence, no publique and honourable works, such as render our *Paris*, and other *Cities* of *France*, renowned, and visited by all the World, emulating even *Italy* her self, for her *Palaces*, uniform and conspicuous Structures: But O how lothsome a *Golgotha* is

this

this *Pauls*! I assure your *Lordship*, that *England* is the sole spot in all the world, where, amongst *Christians*, their *Churches* are made jakes, and stables, markets and Tipling-houses; and where there were more need of *Scorpions*, than *Thongs*, to drive out the *Publicans* and *Money-Changers*: In sum, where these excellent uses, are pretended to be the markes of Piety and Reformation.

I had sometimes the curiosity to visite the several *Worships* of these *Equivocal Christians*, and *Enthusiasts*: But I extreamly wondred to find those whom they call

Pres-

Presbyterians, and that would imitate us of the *Religion* in *France*, and *Geneva*, to have their *Discipline* so confused and different. In this *remarke*, my Lord, to be somewhat more particular, you will not be displeas'd; because it was a thing you so much recommended to my especiall notice. *Form*, they observe none: They pray and read without method, and indeed, without reverence or devotion: I have beheld a whole Congregation sit on their — with their hats on, at the reading of the *Psalms*, and yet bare-headed when they sing them. In divers places they read not

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the *Scriptures* at all; but up into the *Pulpit*, where they make an insipid, tedious and immethodical *Prayer*, in Phrases and a tone so affected and mysterious, that they give it the name of *Canting*, a teaum by which they dessusually express the *gibbrish* of Beggars and Vagabonds; after which, there follows the *Sermon* (which for the most part, they read out of a book) consisting (like their prayers) of *speculative* and *abstracted* notions, and things, which, nor the people nor themselves well understand; But these they extend to an extraordinary

length,

length, and *Pharisaical* repetitions: and well they may: for their *Chaires* are lined with prodigious Velvet cushions, upon which they loll, and talk, 'till almost they sleep, I am sure, 'till their Auditors do.

The *Minister* uses no habit of distinction, or gravity; but steps up in *querpo*; and when he laies by his *cloak* (as I have observed some of them) he has the action rather of a *Thresher*, than a *Divine*; this they call *taking pains*, and indeed it is so to those that hear them: But, thus they have now encouraged every pert *Mechanick* to invade, af-

front

front and out-preach them; and having uncancell'd all manner of decency, prostituted both their persons and function to usurpation, penury and derision. You may well imagine by the manners of the people, and their prodigious opinions, that there is no *Catechism*, nor *Sacraments* duely administred: *The Religion of England is Preaching and sitting still on Sundays.* How they Baptise I know not, because the Congregation is dismissed, and they agree in no form; and for the other *Sacrament*, no man gives, or receives alikes and it is so seldome done *in remembrance*

front

brance of Christ, that in some Parishes, I have heard, they can hardly remember when they received it. Generally I have no where seen good fair out-sides of *Churches*, what they are within I cannot so well say, for their *Temples* are as fast as was that of *Janus* after the first *Punick-war*, unless it be upon *Sundaies*, when they blow the brazen Trumpets of Sedition, not the silver-ones of the *Tabernacle*. I have discoursed with some concerning this feasting their Churches in the week-dayes, They are ready to retort upon us in *France*, not considering that our Churches are so-

litary; & in some places many leagues distant from the Towns, that we are under a persecution, and so necessitated to omit the publique Morning and Evening *Sacrifice*, which I remember to to have heard severall of our *Divines* deplore the defect of; as of many other decencies, which, *here*, they can have no pretence against. For such of their Churches as I have frequented, were dammed up with *Pues*, every three or four of the Inhabitants, sitting in narrow *pueries* or *Pulpits* by themselves; for they are all turn'd *Preachers* now. In short, there is nothing

more

more unlike to our reformed Churches in *Ecosse*, and I think, in all *Europe* beside; the apprehension of *Popery*, or fondness to their own imaginations, having carried them so far to the other extream, that they have now lost all moderation, and decorum; And I have been herein, my Lord the more industrious to inform my self of each particular, because it seems yet to be the most publique *Religion* of the State. Some of their own party, I have heard deplore this confusion, but certainly, they themselves gave the first occasion to these monstrous Libertie, by a ri-

gid, and uncharitable discipline; primarily (it seemes) introduced by the *Scots*, and so refined upon by these; as there are few or none that will submit to the Tyranny; but every one takes his own course, and has protection for it. Some well natur'd abused men I have met withall amongst them; but, if I mistake not, for the greater ingredient; ambitious, ignorant, overweening, sower and uncharitable, *ne quid asperius*, combining with the interest of the times, and who to render themselves powerfull, have in compliances with the spirituall pride of the

Mechanicks and Corporations, conniv'd at those many, and prodigious *Schismes* and *Heresies* which are now spawn'd under them in such numbers, as give terrour to the State. I omit to tell your Lord-ship that few take notice of the *Lords Prayer*; it is esteemed a kind of weakness to use it, but the *Creed* and the *Decalogue* are not once heard of in their Congregations; This is milke for *Babes*, and those are all *Giants*. They do frequently solemnize their late *Nationall* diliverances, and some daies of *Christian blood shed* with all possible severity. But they think it

groſs *Idolatry* to joyn with the whole *Chriſtian Church* of all ſ roſeſſions under heaven, in the *Anniverſaries* of our B. *Saviours Incarnation, Paſſion, Reſurrection,* and the deſcent of the *Holy Ghoſt*, ſpirituall, eternall and never to be forgotten mercies. Would your *Lordſhip* believe that this madneſſe ſhould advance ſo far, as to diſturbe the *French-Church* there, which you know, do's in all places obſerve thoſe ſignall deliverances & bleſſings, both by *Preaching, Prayer, Sacraments* and exhortations appoſite to the occaſion? What think you will be the iſſue of this goodly

goodly Refo mation? I could tell you of the Mysterious *Classis* of the *Tryers*; their ridiculous, insidiary and presumptuous questions; their unheard of animosities against their Brethren of the *Church* of *England*, suffering themselves to be rather torn in sunder by the *Sectaries*, *Demetrius* and the *Crafts-men*, whilst they contend about trifles and meer shadows.

Concerning the *Independents*, all I can learn is; They are a refined, and apostate sort of *Presbyters*; or, rather such as renounce all ordination, as who having preached promiscuously to the people,

and ouningly ensnar'd a select number of rich, and ignorant *Proselytes*, separate themselves into *Conventicles*, which they name *Congregations*. There is nothing do's more resemble this *Sect*, than our Rom. *Missionaries* sent out *in partibus Infidelium*; for they take all other *Christians* to be *Heathens*. These are those great pretenders to the *Spirit*, into whose party, do's the vilest person living, no sooner adscribe himself, but he is, *ipso facto*, dub'd a *Saint*, hallow'd and dear to *God*. These are the confidents, who can design the *minute*, the *place* and the *means* of their

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conversion a *Schism* full of spiritual disdain, uncharity and high imposture, if any such there be on earth: But every alteration of *State*, destroying the interest of the versatile contrivers, they are as ready to *Transmigrate* into the next more thriving Fraternity, as the *Souls* of *Pythagoras* into beasts, and may then perhaps, assume some other *Title*. This is a sad, but serious truth, and no little menaces the common *Christianity*, unless timely prevented. But Sr. I will no longer tire your patience wth these *Monsters* (the subject of every contemptuous *Pamphlet*) then with the madness

of the *Anabaptists*, *Quakers*, *fifth Monarchy-men* and a Cento of unheard of *Heresies* besides, which, at present, deform the once renowned *Church of England*; and approach so little the pretended *Reformation*, which we in *France* have been made to believe, that there is nothing more heavenly wide. But I have dwelt too long on this *remarke*, I return to where I digressed; for I was viewing the *Buildings*, which are as deformed as the minds and confusions of the people, for if a whole street be fired (an accident not unfrequent in this wooden City) the *Magistrate*

ſtrate has either no power, or no care to make them build with any uniformity, which renders it, though a large, yet a very ugly Town; peſtred with *Hackney-Coaches*, and inſolent *Carre-men*, *Shops* and *Taverns*, *Noyſe*, and ſuch a cloud of *Sea-coal*, as if there be a reſemblance of *Hell* upon Earth, it is in this *Vulcano* in a foggy day: This peſtilent *Smoak*, which corrodes the very yron, and ſpoils all the moveables, leaving a ſoot upon all things, that is lightly ſo fatally ſeizing on the *Lungs* of the Inhabitants, that the *Cough* and the *Conſumption* ſpare no man. I have been in

a ſpacious *Church* where I could not diſcern the *Miniſter* for the *Smoak*; nor hear him for the peoples barking. There is within this City, and in all the Towns of *England* (which I have paſſed through) ſo prodigious a number of houſes where they ſell a certain drink called *Ale*, that I think a good halfe of the *Inhabitants* may be denominated *Ale houſe-keepers*: Theſe are a meaner ſort of *Cabarets*: But what is moſt deplorable, where the *Gentlemen* ſit, and ſpend much of their time; drinking of a muddy kind of *Beverage*, and *Tobacco*, which has univerſal-

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ly besotted the *Nation*, and at which (I hear) they have consumed many Noble Estates. As for other *Taverns*, *London* is compos'd of them, where they drink *Spanish Wines*, and other sophisticated Liquors to that fury and intemperance, as has often amaz'd me to consider it: But thus some mean fellow, the *Drawer*, arrives to an Estate, some of them having built fair houses, and purchased those *Gentlemen* out of their possessions, who have ruined themselves by that base and dishonourable vice of ebriety: And that nothing may be wanting to the height of luxury and im-

piety

piety of this *Abomination*, they have translated the *Organs* out of the *Churches*, to set them up in *Taverns*, chanting their *Dithyrambicks*, and beastiall *Bacchanalias* to the tune of those *Instruments*, which were wont to assist them in the celebration of *Gods* Praises, and regulate the voices of the worst singers in the World, which are the *English* in their *Churches* at present: I cannot but commend the *Reformed* in *Holland*, who still retain their *Organs* in the Churches, and make use of them at the *Psalms*, without any opinion of superstition; and I once remembred

membred to have heard the the famous *Diodati* wish might be introduced even at *Geneva*. A great errour undoubtedly in those who sit at the helme, to permit this Scandal; to suffer so many of these *Taverns* and occasions of intemperance, such Leaches and Vipers; to gratifie so sordid and base a sort of People with the spoils of honest, and well natur'd men. Your L. will not believe me that the *Ladies* of greatest quality, suffer themselves to be treated in one of these *Taverns*, where a *Curtesan* in other *Cities* would scarcely vouchsafe to be entertain'd:

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but you will be more aſtoniſh't when I ſhall aſſure you that they drink their *crowned Cups* roundly, ſtrain healths through their *Smocks*, dannce after the *Fiddle*, kiſs freely, & tearm it an honourable *Treat*. But all this my experience, particular addreſs, and habitudes with the greateſt of that Nation has aſſur'd me, that it is not the paſs time only of the inferiour and *meretricious* ſort; ſince I find it a chief ſuppletory at all their entertainments, to drink exceſſively, and that in their own houſes, before the *Ladies*, and the *Lacquais*: It is the afternoons diverſion; whe-

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ther for want of better to employ the time, or affection to the drink, I know not: But I have found some persons of quality, whom one could not safely visit after dinner, without resolving to undergo this *Drink-ordel*, and endure the *Question*: It is esteem'd a piece of wit, to make a man drunk; for which some swilling insipid *client* or *Congiarie*, is a frequent and constant *adjutant*. Your L. may hence well imagine, how heavy, dul

In France they give a certain torture to alefactors, by pouring (oth a quantity of water into their mouths which they call giving the question, and by Translation Drink Ordell.

and

and insignificant the conversation is; loud, querulous and impertinent. I shall relate a story that once happened in my presence at a *Gentleman's* house in the *Country*, where there was much company and feasting. I fortun'd to come at dinner-time, and after the cloth was taken away (as the manner is) they fell to their laudable exercise. But I unacquainted then with their custome, was led up into a *withdrawing Roome* where I had the permission (with a noble person who introduced me) to sit and converse with the *Ladies*, who were thither retired; the *Gentle-* of the has house

house leaving us in the mean time, to entertain his friends below. But you may imagine how strangely I was astonish'd, to see within an hour after, one of the company that had dined there, entring into the Room all bloody, & disorder'd, to fetch a sword which lay in one of the windowes, and three or four of his companions, whom the fumes of the Wine had inspirited, pursuing, & draging him by the hair, till in this confusion, one of their Spurs engaged into a Carpet, upon which stood a very fair *Looking-Glass*, and two noble pieces of *Porselain*, drew all to the

the ground, break the *Glass* & the *Vasas* in pieces; and all this on such an instant, that the *Gentleman* and my self, had much ado to rescue the affrighted *Ladies* from suffering in the tumult; but at last we prevail'd, and brought them to termes, the quarrell concerning an *Health* onely, which one of them would have shifted. I don't remember, my LORD, ever to have known (or very rarely) a *health* drank in *France*, no not the *Kings*; and if we say *A vostre sante Monsieur*, it neither expects pledge, or ceremony. Tis here so the custome to drink to every one at the *Table*,

Ha, that by the time a *Gentle-man* has done his duty to the whole company, he is ready to fall asleep, whereas with us, we salute the whol *Table* with a single glass onely. But, my Lord, was not this, imagine you, an admirable *Scene* and very extraordinary? I confess, the *Lady* of the house being much out of Countenance at what had hapned, profered to excuse this disorder, and I was as ready to receive it, till several encounters confirmed me that they were but too frequent, and that there was a sort of perfect *Debauchers*, who stile themselves *Hectors*,

that

that in their mad and unheard of *Revels*, pierce their veins to quaff their own *blood*, which some of them have drank to that excess, that they died of the intemperance: These are a professed *Atheistical* order of *Bravos*, compos'd for the most of *Cadets*, who spending beyond their *Pensions*, to supply their extravagancies, practise now and then the High-way, where they sometimes borrow that which they often repay at the *Gibbet*; an ignominious trade, unheard of amongst our Gallant *Nobless*; however Fortune reduce them. But I know not whether

ther I might not here match these valiant *Heroes* with an avow'd society of *Ladies*, and some of them not of the meanest for birth (I even blush to recount it of that fair Sex) who boast of making all advantages at *play*, and are become so dextrous at it, that seldome they make a sitting without design and booty; For there is here my Lord, no such thing as courtship after the decent mode of our *Circles*; for either being mingled in a room, the *Gentlemen* separate from the conversation of the *Ladies*, to drink, as I before related; or else to whisper with one another at some cor-

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corner, or *Bay-Window*, abandoning the *Ladies* to Gossip by themselves, which is a custome so strange to a *Gallant* of our *Nation*, as nothing appears more barbarous and unbecoming; and this in effect must needs be the reason that those beautiful Creatures can so little furnish, that they want assurance, address, and the charming discourse of our *Damoiselles*, which are faculties so shining, and agreeable in their Sex with us in *France*: and in truth, even the *Gentlemen* themselves are greatly defective in this particular, ill Courtiers, unpliant, morose, and of vulgar ad-

dress; generally not so polished, free and serene, as is universally found even amongst the most inferiour of our *Nation*. I am not ignorant that they impute it to a certain levity in us; but it is a mistake in them, and that because they so hardly reform it, without some ridiculous affectation, as is conspicuous in their several *Modes* and *Dresses*, which they vary ten times for our once; every one affecting something particular; as having no standard at *Court*, which should give *Laws*, and do countenance to the fashion. The *Women* are much affected with *Gaudry*, there

there being nothing more frequent, than to see an ancient *Ladie* wear colours, a thing which neither young nor old of either Sex do with us, save in the Country, and the Camp; but *Widows* at no time. And yet reprove they us for these exorbitances; but I have often disputed the case: Either we do ill, or well; if ill, why then do they *ape us?* if well, why do they reproach us? The truth is, they have no moderation, and are neither so lucky, nor frugal as our *Ladies* are in these sumptuary expenses; and whereof the *Magistrate* takes so little cognisance

nisance, that it is not an easy matter to distinguish the *Ladies* from the *Chamber maid*; Servants being suffered in this brave Country to go clad like their Mistrisses, a thing neither decent, nor permitted in *France*, where they may wear neither *lace*, nor *Silks*.

I may not forget to acquaint your Lordship, that though the *Ladies* and the *Gentlemen* are so shy of one another; yet when once they grow acquainted, it passes into expressions, and complements extreamly new to our usages, and the stile of our Country. Do but imagine

how it would become our *Ladyes* to call *Mons.* N. *Jack.* *N.* what more frequent than this? *Tom P.* was here to day; I went yesterday to the * *Cours* with *will.* R. & *Harry* M. treated me at such a *Tavern*: These are the particular *idioms*, and gracefull confidences now in use; introduced I conceive at first by some *Camerades* one with another; but it is mean and rude, and such as our *Lacquais* would almost disdain in *Paris*, where I have often observed two *Chimny-Sweepers* accost one another, in better forms, and civi-

* A place neer *Paris*, like Hide-parke.

civiller addresses. But to be confident and civill, is not a thing so easily understood, and seems a peculiar talent of our Nation.

However the *Ladies* are not more obliging, & familiar than the *Lords* are difficult and inaccessible; for though by reason of my Birth, and quality, my recommendations and addresses, I found some tolerable reception amongst them; yet I observ'd that they kept at such a surly distance with the *Gentlemen*, even of Family, that me thought I never beheld a ruder conversation; especially, when comparing their parts,

and educations, I found them generally so much inferiour, as if a *Lord* were indeed other than a *Gentleman*, or a *Gentleman* not a fit companion for a *King*. But this must needs be the result of an ill, and haughty institution, and for that most of these great persons are in their minority, and the age wherein they should be furnished with the noblest impressions, taught only to converse with their servants, some *Sycophants*, and under the regiment of a *Pedant*, which imprints that scornfulness and folly, and fits them with no better forms when they should produce

themselves, and give testimony to others as well of their superiority in vertue, as in birth and dignity. But this is my Lord a particular, which I have heard you often complain of, and which we do frequently take notice of at their coming abroad into our Country, where for want of address, and fit persons to introduce them, they seldome return more refined than they came; else they could not but have observed, that there is nothing which makes the distinction of *Nobles* in *France*, but the *Title*, and that his *Majesty* himself do'e them the honours, which here they

usurpe upon their equalls: But, my Lord, they are sufficiently punished for it in *England*: where, to me they appear so degenerate, for want of this humility and free conversation, by which, and their other vices, they grow now so much despised, that the *Gentlemen* need seek no revenge; for though (as I told you) the *Gentlemen* are most of them very intemperate; yet the *Proverb* goes, *As drunk as a Lord*. But, my Lord, as there is no rule so generall, but it do's admit of exceptions, so should I give my own experience, as well as your Lordships the contradiction, to

make

make the censure universall; there being even amongst *these*, some few, and in particular my L. *N.* and *N. &c.* whom I esteem to be very noble and accomplished persons, as who have learned (by the good fortune of a better education) how to value the conversations of worthy men and who indeed, do sufficiently verifie all those *attributes* which are due to their qualities, & therefore whom this *Paragraph* doth no waies concern.

Nor should I be less severe and unjust, totally to exclude even some of the *Ladies* from the advantages of this *Period*,

whose perfections and vertues claim an equal right to all that I have here spoken, out of a due resentiment of their merits and excellencies.

It was frequently, during the last winter, that I was carried to their *Balls*, (as indeed I hoped to see what should appear the most of gallant & splendid amongst the *Ladies*, nor really did my expectations deceive me; for there was a confluence of very great beauties, to which the glistring of their jewels, (which upon these occasions they want not) would adde nothing save their weight; the vari-

various habits being so particular; as if by some strange *inchantment*, they had encountred, and come out of several Nations: But *I* was astonished to see, when they were ready to move, that a *Dancing Master* had the boldness to take forth the greatest *Ladies*, and they again the *Dancing Master*, who performed the most part of the *Ball*, whilst the Gentlemen that were present, were least concerned, and stood looking on; so as it appeared to me, more like the *Farce* of a *Comedy* at the *Hostel de Bourgogne*, than a *Ball of* the *Playhouse* [illegible] *Blackfryers*.

the *Noblesse*, and in truth their measures, when any of them were taken out, made me somewhat ashamed to lead a *Lady*, who did me the honor, for fear, though my skill be but very vulgar in that exercise, they should have taken me for a *Dancing Master*, as who had haply imployed my youth so ill, as to have some advantage of the rest in that faculty. This favour is particular to the *Dancing Masters* in this Country; and reason good, for they ride in their Coaches, and have such ample *Salaries*, as maintains both their prodigality, and insolence that were insupportable,

in *France*, where these trifling fellows do better know themselves, are worse payed, and less presumptuous. Nay, so remiss are the *Ladies* of their respect in this instance, that they not only entertain all this; but permit themselves likewise to be invited, and often honour these impertinent *Fantasticks*, by receiving the *Ball* at their petty *Schools*.

When this Ceremony was ended, some of the *Gallants* fell to other *Recreations*, and as far as I understood, were offering at that innocent, yet salt and pleasant diversion, which in *France* we call *Rallying*; but so far were they

they from maintaining it within the decencies and and Laws, which both in that and our *Characters* we observe; that in a little time, they fell so upon personal abusing one another, that there was much ado to preserve the peace, and as I heard, it was the next day the product of a quarrel, and a *Duell*.

A witty, and a civil description of one another's persons.

I did frequently in the spring, accompany my *Lord* Nottingham field near the Town, which they call *Hare Parke*; the place not unpleasant, and which they use as our *Course*; but with nothing that order;

equi-

equipage and splendor, being such an assembly of wretched *Jades*, and *Hackney Coaches*, as next a Regiment of *Carremen*, there is nothing approaches the resemblance. This *Parke* was (it seemes) used by the late *King*, and *Nobility* for the freshnes of the Air, and the goodly prospect: but it is that which now (besides all other *exactions*) they pay for here in *England*, though it be free in all the World besides; every *Coach* and *Horse* which enters, paying his mouthful, and permission of the *Publicane*, who has purchased it for when the entrance is guarded

ed with *Porters* and long Staves.

The manner is, as the Company returns, to alight at the *Spring Garden*, so called in order to the *Parke*, as our *Thuilleries* is to the *Courſe*; the incloſure not disagreeable, for the ſolemneſs of the Grove, the warbling of the Birds, and as it opens into the ſpacious walks at *St. James's*: but the Company walk in it at ſuch a rate, as you would think all the *Ladies* were ſo many *Atalantas*, contending with their *Wooers*; and my Lord there was no appearance, that I ſhould prove the *Hippomenes*,

who could, with very much ado, keep pace with them: But as fast as they run, they stay there so long, as if they wanted not time to finish the *Race*; for it is usuall *here*, to find some of the young company till midnight; and the Thickets of the *Garden* seem to be contrived to all advantages of *Gallantry*, after they have been refreshed with the *Collation*, which is here seldome omitted, at a certain *Cabaret* in the middle of this *Paradise*; where the forbidden fruites are certain trifling *Tartes-Neates-tongues*, *Salacious meates*, and bad *Rhenish*; for which the *Gallants*

pay Sauce, as indeed they do at all such houses throughout *England*; for they think it a peice of frugality beneath them, to bargaine, or accompt for what they eat in any place however unreasonably imposed upon: But thus, those mean fellows are (as I told your Lordship) inriched, begger, and insult over the *Gentlemen*. I am assured that this particular *Host*, has purchased, within few years, 5000 *lepers* of annuall rent; & well he may, at the rates these *Prodigals* pay; whereas in *France*, a *Gentleman* effects it no diminution

Aun of our moneys.

to manage even these expences with reason. But my Lord, it is now late, and time to quit this Garden, & to tell you, that I think there is not a more illustrious sight in the World, than to meet the *Divinities* of our *Court* marching up the long walk in the *Thuilleries*; where the pace is so layed and grave, the encounters so regular and decent; & where those who feed their eyes with their beauties, and their ears with the charming *accents* of their discourse and voyces, need not those refreshments of the other Senses, finding them all to be so taken up with these.

I was curious before my return and when I had conquer'd some difficulties of the *language*, and *Customes*, to visite their Judicatures; where, besides that few of their *Gown-men* are to be compared to those of the *Robe* in our *Palais*

Where they plead as at Westminster.

for elocution, and the talent of wel speaking; so neither do they at all exceed them in the forms & colours of their *Pleading*; but (as before I spake of their *Raillery*) supply the defects of the *cause*, with flat, insipide and grossely abusing one another; a thing so trifling and misbecom-

coming the gravity of *Courts* (where the *Lawyers* take liberty to cast mens estates away, and yet avow their avarice) that *I* have much admired at the temper of the Judges, and their remisseness in reforming it. There was a young Person, whom at my being there, was very much cried up for his abilities, and in whom *I* did not observe that usuall intemperance, which *I* but now reproved; and certainly, it springs either for want of those abilities which the *Municipall* Lawes of this *Nation* (consisting most of them in *Customes* like our *Normandy*, whose ancient

tiant *dialect* their books yet retain, are so little apt to furnish, or the defect of those advantages, which the more polished *Sciences* afford us, without which it is impossible to be good Orators, and to maintain their discourses, without diversion to that vile impertinency.

But what is infinitely agreeable in this Country, are the *Bowling Greens*, and the *Races*, which are really such pleasures abroad, as we have nothing approaches them in *France*, and which I was extreamly delighted in; but the *Verdure* of the Country, and delicious *Domes* it

is,

is, which renders them this præheminence, and indeed, it is to be valued, and doth in my esteeme, very much commute for the lesse benignity of that glorious *Planet*, which ripens our *Vines* in *France*.

The *Horses*, and the *Doggs*, their incomparable *Parkes* of *Fallow deer*, and lawes of *Chace*, I extreamly approve of: but upon other occasions, all *Englishmen* ride so fast upon the *Road*, that you would swear there were some enemie in the *arriere*; and all the *Coaches* in *London*, seem to drive for *Midwives*.

But what did much more affect me is their ceremony at

at the *Table*, where every man is obliged to sit till all have done eating, however their appetites differ, and to see the formality of the *Voider*, which our *Withdrawing roomes* in *France* are made to prevent, and might so here, if they knew the use of them, to be, that every man may rise when he has din'd without the least indecency, and leave the *Sewers* to their office.

I have now but a word to adde, and that is the tediousness of *Visits*, which they make here so long that it is a very tyranny to sit, to so little purpose: If the

ſons be of *Ladies* that are ſtrangers, it is to look upon each other, as if they had never ſeen any of their own *kinde* before; and here indeed the *virtue* of their *Sex* is eminent; for they are as ſilent and fixt as *Statues*; Or if they do talk, it is with cenſure, and ſufficient confidence; ſo difficult it is to *Entertain* with a grace, or to obſerve a mediocrity.

In Summe, my *Lord*, *I* found ſo many particulars worthy of reproof in all thoſe *Remarks* which *I* have been able to make; that to render you a veritable account of *England*, as it is at preſent,

I

I must pronounce with the Poet

Difficile est Satyram non Scribere

FINIS.